

News Release



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Communications & Public Relations

TOPIC: Mississippi Announces Scholarship Program for Rural Paramedics

CONTACT:

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The Mississippi State Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services announces a Rural Emergency Medical Services Scholarship now available for state wide application. The intent of this scholarship is to provide funding for students who, upon graduation, agree to be employed in an area of Mississippi that is considered to be at-risk for emergency medical services, as determined by the Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Rural Health. This scholarship is available to incoming freshmen as well as students already enrolled in an EMT-Paramedic program. This scholarship is designed to cover the cost of tuition, books, room, board, and other fees.

According to Jim Craig, Director of Emergency Medical Services, recipients must agree to serve, upon graduation, in an at-risk area for a number of years equal to the number of years that the scholarship is received. This stipulation is contingent on the availability of employment in an at-risk area.

“This is one of Mississippi’s best kept secrets,” Craig says. “We want to get the word out that this type of financial aid exists.”

“We currently have a lot of high quality medics in Mississippi,” Craig states. “We simply need more in our rural areas.”

The state is approximately 90 percent rural with 96 percent of the land mass covered by ALS services. A shortage of EMT-Paramedics in these areas is on the rise.

To qualify for this scholarship, recipients must meet all of the necessary qualifications for admission into the college’s EMT-Paramedic program; recipients will be selected on the basis of academic ability, character, leadership, and professional attitude; recipients must maintain a minimum of 12 hours per semester and be making satisfactory progress toward completion of the program; recipients must remain in academic good standing; recipients must successfully complete the Paramedic National Registry Exam. Should the recipient fail to abide by the requirements set forth in the scholarship, he or she must agree to repay all funds they are awarded.

For more information, interested parties should contact Alisa Williams at the State EMS office, (601) 576-7380.